

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims pending in the application are requested.

II. Office Action

Claims 1-2, 6-12, 16-19 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0195019 to Litwin (hereafter “Litwin”). Claims 3-5 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Litwin in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0203989 to Karaoguz (hereafter, “Karaoguz”). Claims 13-15 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable Litwin in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0040316 to Stanforth et al. (hereafter, “Stanforth”).

III. Applicants’ Response

Litwin US 2003/0195019 teaches a master/slave network where the role of the master can be changed based on upon detecting, by the network master device, either that it’s power reserve is below a threshold level, or that there exists another device in the network with a substantially larger power reserve than the master’s. In Litwin, it can be clearly seen that all communication regarding the master_role_switch is initiated and provided through the Master device.

Litwin fails to disclose or suggest a solution for the problem of when the master device fails before the master_role_switch can be accomplished or when a new network master is announced. In the Applicants’ claimed invention, each device in the network shares information, such as the amount of remaining power reserve, with other devices in the network by periodically transmitting capability data in a capability field format within the network so that other devices are aware of the capabilities of the transmitting device before the device fails or goes offline. The capability field format is part of a repeating pattern of frames or superframes. The capability data includes the identify of the type of power source in the transmitting device, whether it has a fixed power source or a battery, and if a battery, the state of its reserve power

level. In this manner, the devices in the network have sufficient information before a failure occurs, so that they can perform the master role switching and/or announce a new network master if the existing master device fails or goes offline. In the Applicants' claimed invention, the devices share the capability information within the network so that there will not be a single point of failure that is responsible for handing the control to another device in case a master role switch or a new network master is required. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Litwin of the Applicants' claimed transmitting a capability field format repeatedly from each of a plurality of devices in the network, which includes capability data to identify the type of power source in the transmitting device and the state of its available power capacity.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0203989 to Karaoguz discloses a power control device for adjusting power output levels, which includes a transmitter configured to transmit a first signal, and a receiver configured to receive a second signal. The power control device has a processing unit configured to determine the location information based on the first signal and the second signal, and a power adjusting unit configured to adjust a power output level corresponding to the location information. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Karaoguz taken alone or in combination with Litwin of the Applicants' claimed transmitting a capability field format repeatedly from each of a plurality of devices in the network, which includes capability data to identify the type of power source in the transmitting device and the state of its available power capacity.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0040316 to Stanforth et al. discloses an ad-hoc, peer-to-peer radio access system having a series of remote terminals, where each remote terminal is capable of forming a node, or hop, of the routing of a call made by one of the series of terminals. The call is routed along a routing path of terminals based on the class-of-service. If the call to be transmitted is a voice call, then a routing path having low latency will be selected. If the call is a video transmission, then a routing path of low bit-error without excessive latency will be chosen. If the call is a data transmission, then the least-energy routing path will be chosen. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Stanforth taken alone or in combination with Litwin of the Applicants' claimed transmitting a capability field format repeatedly from each of a plurality of

devices in the network, which includes capability data to identify the type of power source in the transmitting device and the state of its available power capacity.

Accordingly, the Applicants' believe that their claimed invention is patentable over the cited combination of references.

CONCLUSION

Entry of the amendment, allowance of the claims and passage to issue of the application are requested.

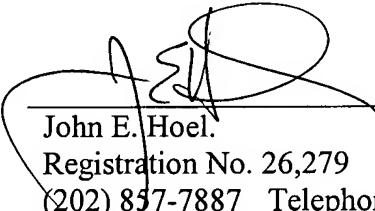
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4157. A DUPLICATE OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4157. A DUPLICATE OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: September 6, 2006

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